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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,152	10/31/2003	Thomas K. Oram	12406/60	1019

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KENYON & KENYON LLP
ONE BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004

EXAMINER	
KOYAMA, KUMIKO C	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2876	

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/698,152	ORAM, THOMAS K.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kumiko C. Koyama	2876	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-71* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *19-68* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18 and 69-71* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *31 October 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *0305*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Restriction Requirement received on February 27, 2006 has been acknowledged.

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed March 07, 2005 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

International Search Report, Appln. No. PCT/US2004/036175, dated February 17, 2005 has not been considered because the copy of the cited International Search Report has not been received.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it includes improper language, such as "embodiments," "provide" and "embodiment." Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 10 and 69 are objected to because of the following informalities:

The Examiner respectfully requests the Applicant to avoid the use of "if" statements because it render the claim vague and indefinite. "If" statements render the claim and vague and indefinite due to the fact that is it unclear whether the process is actually happening or not. For example, in this case, is it unclear whether the data is determined to be valid or invalid.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-4, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Irwin, Jr. et al. (US 5,471,039).

Re claims 1, 10, 14 and 69: Irwin discloses a validation of a lottery ticket 50, which is a game of chance (col 27, lines 44-45). The ticket includes a bar code (col 6, lines 40-42). The external verification machine, which is a local terminal, reads the bar code, which contains the inventory control number and the encrypted validation number data (col 27, lines 52-55). The validation data contains information related to the identity of the ticket, for example, the game number, pack number and ticket number (col 31, lines 25-30). The validation number and game number is stored on the bar code 428 and the validation data is read by the external verification machine 108 (col 31, lines 29-35). The external verification machine 108 transmits the data as to which play spot areas have been removed along with the validation number to the central

computer 223, which is a remote terminal (col 31, lines 35-40). The data as to which play spot areas have been removed are is an instruction/trigger and the validation number is the data as recited in the claims. The central computer 223 contains the redemption or validation file which includes information corresponding to the ticket identification information for each ticket as well as a record with play indicia value data corresponding to each of the play spot areas on each ticket (col 31, lines 40-45). The central computer 223 then determines the redemption value corresponding to the matching play indicia value data and sends authorization to the external verification machine to that the redemption value can be paid (col 31, lines 50-55). The determination of the redemption value corresponding to the matching play indicia value data is a check validity program to determine whether the data is determined to be valid.

Re claims 2 and 11: As described above, Irwin teaches that the data is a validation number, which is an identifier associated with the ticket. A validation number is an identifier because is uniquely identifies a ticket within a game (col 30, lines 62-65).

Re claim 3: As described above, Irwin discloses that the central computer 223 then determines the redemption value corresponding to the matching play indicia value data and sends authorization to the external verification machine to that the redemption value can be paid (col 31, lines 50-55).

Re claim 4: As described above, Irwin discloses that the external verification machine 108 transmits the data as to which play spot areas have been removed along with the validation number to the central computer 223, which is a remote terminal (col 31, lines 35-40). The central computer 223 then determines the redemption value corresponding to the matching play indicia

value data and sends authorization to the external verification machine to that the redemption value can be paid (col 31, lines 50-55).

Re claim 15: Irwin further discloses that the bar code 80 can include information regarding the value of the play indicia 74 of the ticket 50. The bar code reader 210 communicates direction with the microcontroller 224 via an ANSI standard interface, such as a UART. The bar code reader 210 is a laser scanner (col 13, lines 57-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 5, 6, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irwin in view of Leason et al (US 6,251,017). The teachings of Irwin have been discussed above.

Irwin fails to teach based on the encoded instruction, connecting to a website via c ommunications network, wherein the check validity program is executed at the website and the communication network includes an internet.

Leason teaches entering a validation code from the ticket stub into a redemption form at a site on the internet (col 13, lines 35-40). Leason also discloses a machine 304 at which the validation codes are received an be a computer or television configured for two-way communication (e.g., a television which is connected to a telephone line or two-way

communication cable line or fiber optic link) or other interactive device which has both input and output devices connected to convey information to and from an internet site (col 13, lines 45-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Leason to the teachings of Irwin because the use of internet enhances the usability by providing local terminals around the world and therefore, the user has more choices and locations to validate the code.

8. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irwin in view of Saunders et al (US 6,340,331). The teachings of Irwin have been discussed above.

Irwin fails to teach that if the data is determined to be invalid by the check validity program, indicating that the ticket is invalid.

Saunders discloses that the microprocessor 700 waits for authorization from the gaming machine 30 or from the central computer 40 that the ticket is a correct ticket and, if correct, then delivers the cash-in value over lines 684 to the gaming machine 30 so that the player can start the game. If the amount if incorrect, then the microprocessor 700 reactivates the stepper motor 570 over lines 556 to cause it to move in the reverse direction to back the ticket out of the slot 430 and then issue a message in display 450 over lines 551 that the ticket is invalid. The microprocessor, the gaming machine 30 or the central computer 40 may issue an alarm for an attendant to visit the player at the gaming machine (col 7, lines 10-25).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Saunders to the teachings of Irwin and issue a display message indicating that the ticket invalid so that the player is notified that the ticket

cannot be redeemed and cannot receive cash, and also so that the attendant does not provide cash to the player who is not entitled to receive it.

9. Claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 70 and 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Irwin in view of Axelrod et al (US 5,337,358). The teachings of Irwin have been discussed above.

Re claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 70 and 71: Irwin fails to teach that the bar code is a two-dimensional barcode and that the two-dimensional barcode is a PDF-417 format.

Axelrod discloses a barcode being a two-dimensional barcode and the two-dimensional barcode is a PDF-417 standard barcode (col 3, lines 29-35).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to integrate the teachings of Axelrod to the teachings of Irwin because PDF-417 is capable of storing large amounts of text and data in a secure and inexpensive manner, and therefore, such barcode format is suitable for such gaming industry necessitates large amount of data to increase security.

Re claim 18: Irwin further discloses that the bar code 80 can include information regarding the value of the play indicia 74 of the ticket 50. The bar code reader 210 communicates direction with the microcontroller 224 via an ANSI standard interface, such as a UART. The bar code reader 210 is a laser scanner (col 13, lines 57-64).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Saunders et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,012,832, discloses cashless peripheral device for a gaming device.

Sapitowicz et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,626,672, discloses document processing apparatus.

Konishi et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,992,647, discloses a ticket processing terminal device which accepts previously issued tickets for modification or exchange.

Dietz, II et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,949,042, discloses instant, multiple play gaming ticket and validation system.

FRANK et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0023955 A1, discloses electronic delivery of admission tickets direct to a purchaser.

Behm et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,736,324, discloses lottery ticket bar code.

Shoemaker, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 6,796,487, discloses video ticket counter.

Behm et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,899,621, discloses system and method for selling lottery game tickets.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kumiko C. Koyama whose telephone number is 571-272-2394. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kumiko C. Koyama

Kumiko C. Koyama
May 11, 2006

STEVEN S. PAIK
PRIMARY EXAMINER